

Review of the Neighborhood Conference  
Thursday, September 26, 2002  
Glenview Mansion

The City of Rockville values its relationship with our neighborhood associations and believes strong neighborhoods improve quality of life. Accordingly, the Mayor and Council made a commitment to build on this partnership and designated “Strengthened Neighborhoods” as one of its strategic goals. On Thursday, September 26, 2002, the Mayor and Council invited members of each neighborhood associations to join them at Glenview Mansion for an historic Neighborhood Conference. Co-sponsored by the Neighborhood Resources Program, representatives from 33 of the 53 (62%) associations in the City of Rockville participated in an interactive discussion on the strengths and challenges of our neighborhoods and what the City can do to preserve their integrity and character. Never had so many neighborhood associations had the opportunity to intermingle.

**Participants:**

**Mayor and Council**

**Neighborhood Association Representatives:**

Eddie Alexander, New Mark Commons	Randy Alton, Assoc. of West Rockville
Dr. Susana Barber, Chadsberry	Laura Barretto, Americana Centre
Cris Brown, Wootton Oaks	Art Cassanova, The Victoria
Rosanna Coffey, Cambridge Heights	Patricia Culpepper, Regents Square
John DuFief, Glenora Hills	Bob Edwards, College Square
Jeff Frank, Redgate Farms	Jerry Greenberg, Flint Ledge
Fran Hawkins, Lincoln Park	Mary Ruth Haworth, Rose Hills Falls
Gerry Holtz, King Farm	Earl Kendrick, Woodmont Springs
Clifford Lanham, Woodmont Overlook	Mike Lewis, Waddington Park
David L’Heureux, Fallswood	Gale Luce, Hungerford
Mike Menaker, Rockshire	Keith Morton, Charles Walk
Bridget Newton, West End	Carl Peterson, Potomac Woods
Robert Pittman, Twinbrook	Ted Reuther, College Gardens
Lorenzo Ricks, Heritage Park	Maizie Rocke, East Rockville
John Stern, Potomac Springs	Martin Trusty, Woodley Gardens
Ralph Veal, Lynfield	Karen Voight, Village Green
Deb Warsaw, Monument Place	

**City Staff:** C. Bartlett, M. Cannon, A. Chambers, B. Ferguson, D. Jenkins, C. Tuck Parrish, M. Pentz, G. Stuckey, T. Whitfield

## **Mayor-Facilitated Discussion Notes**

### Perceived Strengths of Neighborhood:

<u>Suggestion</u>	<u>Approx. Agreements</u>
• Walking distance from...	30
• Close to public transportation	25
• People are cooperative	20
• Strong neighborhood association	18
• Stable, original owners	15
• No Thru-Streets	15
• Diversity	15
• We know our neighbors	15
• Strong Neighborhood Watch & public safety	14
• Greenspace	12
• Proximity to schools	10
• Close knit neighborhood	8
• Access to bikeways	5
• Mix of housing types	N/A
• History	N/A
• Social environment	N/A

### Perceived Challenges/Concerns of Neighborhood:

<u>Suggestion</u>	<u>Approx. Agreements</u>
• Traffic congestion (volume)	33
• Civic assoc. involvement	28
• Pedestrian safety	22
• Cut-thru traffic	15
• Aging of Housing units	15
• Language and cultural barriers	15
• Noise for traffic (e.g. I- 270)	14
• Aging city infrastructure	10
• Lack of community facilities	6
• Vandalism	5
• Reacting to pressures (changes, development, Density, city activity)	N/A
• Awareness of Emerging Issues	N/A
• Firehouse Siren	N/A
• Geese, deer, and other wildlife	N/A
• Clarity of growth policies	N/A
• Traffic patterns	N/A
• School districting and telephone exchange, WSSC, etc. issues	N/A
• Integration of new neighborhoods into City	N/A

Perceived Challenges/Concerns of Neighborhood (continued):

<u>Suggestion</u>	<u>Approx. Agreements</u>
• Traffic safety (e.g. Rt. 28 and Hurley, Gude)	N/A
• Maintenance of common areas and buffers	N/A
• E. Gude development/redevelopment	N/A
• Covenants (education, abiding by)	N/A

What can the City do to help strengthen neighborhoods and assist neighborhood associations?

- Input for discussions with higher levels of government (maximize our impact)
- Information on available city equip and facilities
- Sharing of best practices
- Old city garage is crumbling
- Getting a straight answer; follow-up (having to nag city govt)
- Communication among associations electronically
- Addressing diversity –related challenges (more info, connecting to people)
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Building relationship with MCPS
- Provide info on Permitting procedures
- Traffic studies refreshed regularly over time
- District 17 involvement (& other elected officials)
- Supporting a federation of neighborhoods
- Traffic jurisdictional issues
- Follow-up by city government on traffic concerns

**Action Items:**

- 1) Additional neighborhood conferences with specific foci
  - How many sessions (2 –4?) - TBD
  - Trainings (ex. web hosting, facilitation skills, etc.); special guest speakers (District 17 delegation)
- 2) Continued communication between neighborhood associations
  - Utilization of community listserv as vehicle
  - Utilization of Rocknet for more web presence
  - Study the potential of a “federation of neighborhoods” to network, exchange of ideas, and outline a more cohesive voice for the citizens of Rockville.

Several residents volunteered to participate in a steering committee that will discuss the “federation” and other issues at greater length in the near future. The Neighborhood Resources Program expects to convene this committee in late October.